

**REMARKS**

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated January 31, 2006.

Applicant has amended claims 39, 49, 52, 60, 67 and cancelled claims 43, 44, 50, 64 and 71.

Claims 39-42, 45-49, 51-63, 65-70 and 72-73 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 49, 50, 56, 64 and 71 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 39 to include all elements of claim 50 and all limitations of any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended dependent claim 49 to rewrite the claim in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 39 and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 52 to include all elements of claim 56 and all limitations of any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 60 to include all elements of claim 64 and all limitations of any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 67 to include all elements of claim 71 and all limitations of any intervening claims.

Although Applicants have amended the claims, Applicants do not acquiesce to any of the remarks set forth by the Examiner with respect to the cited reference. For example, the Applicants respectfully disagree that Dai teaches or suggest one or more of the sink ports in said set of sink ports concurrently receives a plurality of data packets from two or more of the data rings. At col. 6, ll. 36-51, as cited by the Examiner, Dai merely describes the ring-based architecture of the Dai apparatus and does not describe a sink port capable of concurrently receiving data packets from two or more rings.

### CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

February 14, 2006  
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